

**Crown Court billing – lines approved for sharing with advocates instructed on Crown Court matters.**

Assessment of Crown Court bills has recommenced. For claims under the graduated fee schemes (Litigator’s Graduated Fee Scheme and Advocate’s Graduated Fee Scheme) please continue to submit bills via CCCD in the normal way. This includes claims for special, wasted and unused preparation.

Very High Cost Cases (VHCC) and Interim Fixed Fee Offer (IFFO) claim assessment has also recommenced and payments are being made via a contingency process. Please continue to submit bills to your Case Manager by email.

As of Monday 16th June all payments are being made within the published key performance indicator of 20 working days.

The payment windows in the table refer to the day that the caseworker processes the payment, providers will receive funds a few days later once the BACS process is complete.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| AGFS | 15 working days |
| LGFS | 13 working days |
| Special / wasted / unused prep | 20 working days |
| VHCC / IFFO | 14 working days |

**If you have submitted a bill outside these windows please telephone the Criminal billing enquiries team on 0300 200 2020 (AGFS / LGFS graduated claims)**

**If you have submitted a VHCC bill outside the quoted payment window please email** [CCU@justice.gov.uk](mailto:CCU@justice.gov.uk)

**Hardship:**

If you are experiencing hardship please submit a hardship claim for an individual case on CCCD. The Crime billing team can isolate hardship claims and prioritise for payment where appropriate.

**VAT bills:**

The deadline for VAT bill payments to HMRC has been highlighted to the LAA. The LAA has written to the HMRC Director for Indirect Taxes which includes VAT. HMRC have updated their guidance on the VAT and Debt customer support lines including ‘time to pay arrangements’ acknowledging that they are working with the LAA.

Individual advocates who are concerned about their ability to meet a VAT bill deadline as a result of delayed legal aid payments should contact HMRC individually.

HMRC VAT Helpline : 0300 200 3700

**Alistair Adan**

**Deputy Director for Case Management**